

REMARKS

Claims 9-25 are presented for consideration, with Claims 9 and 10 being independent.

Initially, the title has been amended to be more clearly indicative of the claimed subject matter, as required by the Examiner.

The independent claims have been amended to further distinguish Applicant's invention from the cited art.

Claims 9-16 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over JP '496 (Masahiro). In addition, Claims 17-20 and 22-25 were rejected as allegedly being obvious over Masahiro in combination with Sato '919. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant's invention as set forth in Claim 9 relates to an image forming apparatus comprised of an envelope including first and second substrates and a frame disposed between the first and second substrates and forming a clearance therebetween, and image forming means disposed between the first and second substrates within the envelope. The image forming means includes an electron emitting device disposed on the first substrate and an image forming member disposed on the second substrate, with the image forming member forming an image responsive to an irradiation with an electron emitted from the electron emitting device. Also provided is a heat insulating member for suppressing a thermal leakage of heat generated by the envelope. The member is disposed on an outer surface of the envelope, including surfaces of the frame and the first and second substrates, except for a surface region of the image forming means on at least one of the first and second substrates.

Claim 10 relates to an image forming apparatus that includes an envelope and image forming means as set forth in Claim 9, and a heat insulating member for suppressing a thermal leakage of heat generated by the envelope. The heat insulating member is disposed on an outer surface of the envelope, including surfaces of the frame and the first and second substrates, except for a surface region of the image forming means on both of the first and second substrates.

In accordance with Applicant's claimed invention, the heat insulating member is capable of suppressing thermal leakage of heat generated by the envelope. In this manner, an efficient and high performance image forming apparatus can be provided.

The primary citation to Masahiro relates to an image forming apparatus that includes a face plate 2, a rear plate 3 and a supporting frame 4, with an image forming part 20 formed on the face plate and an electron emitting part formed on the rear plate. As shown in Figure 1, an electric circuit board 6 is disposed behind the rear plate, and includes heat generating electric parts 7 formed at the outer circumference of the board and electric parts 8 formed on the interior part of the board. The rear plate is sized to be larger than the frame 4, with a projected part 3-1 being opposite to the outer circumference of the electric circuit board.

The Office Action acknowledges that Claims 9 and 10 do not provide a heat insulating member for suppressing thermal leakage, but contends that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to specify the circuit board of Masahiro as such a heat insulating member. This contention is respectfully traversed.

Masahiro suppresses thermal distortion of display panel 10 by strategically placing the heat generating electric parts 7 on the outer portions of the circuit board and the other

electric parts on the inner portion of the circuit board. Masahiro, therefore, uses a completely different approach for suppressing thermal distortion, and thus it would not have been obvious (or necessary) to make its circuit board 6 a heat insulating member. Moreover, Masahiro does not teach or suggest suppressing heat leakage generated by the envelope itself, but rather suppresses thermal distortion of the display panel.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 9-16 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103 is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

The secondary citation to Sato relates to an image display apparatus and was cited for its teaching of covering a face plate with a transparent thermally conductive member. Sato fails, however, to compensate for the deficiencies in Masahiro as discussed above with respect to independent Claims 9 and 10.

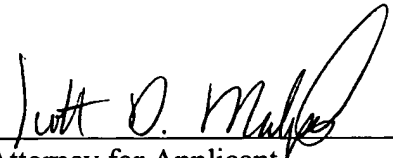
Therefore, the proposed combination of Masahiro and Sato, even if proper, still fails to teach or suggest Applicant's claimed invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of Claims 17-20 and 22-25 are therefore also respectfully requested.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in independent Claims 9 and 10 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 11-25 set forth additional features of Applicant's invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C.
office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our
below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant
Scott D. Malpede
Registration No. 32,533

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

SDM/vmm

DC_MAIN 134046 v 1